

Wrestlers aspire to 3rd place

The UNL wrestling team will compete today in the 40th annual Big Eight Wrestling Tournament at Columbia, Mo.

Nebraska, which hasn't won a conference title since 1949, has finished fourth the past two years. But UNL coach Orval Vorgialli said he believes the Huskers have a chance for third.

"We can finish third if a little luck is with us and we don't get hurt in the drawings," Borgialli said. "It's going to take a supreme effort with no one letting down."

The Husker mat squad may be the toughest it has been this season because Tom Lotko dropped one weight class for the tourney. Lotko, a Big Eight runner-up a year ago, led the team in victories with 23.

Lotko's weight enabled Bob Smith, a junior college transfer from Washington, to enter the line up.

Borgialli, who is in his ninth year as Husker coach, has never had a Big Eight champion, but feels this year might produce his first one.

"I'd say every man we're taking stands a chance of placing," Borgialli said. "I've never felt that before going into a Big Eight tournament."

Besides Lotko, Monty Halstead, Jeff Class and Steve Ravenscroft have placed in previous conference tournaments.

The Big Eight Conference, which produced the last five NCAA wrestling champions, will send the top four finishers in each weight class to the March 8-10 NCAA championships in Seattle, Wash.

126-Monty Halstead (21-8); 134-Ralph Manning (13-10-1); 142-Tom Lotko (23-6-1); 150-Bob Smith (7-5); 158-Cliff Myles (12-6-1); 167-Steve Ravenscroft (5-2-2); 177-Bob Johnson (11-8-1); 190-John Bell (6-1); Hwt-Jeff Class (13-6).



Steve Ravenscroft (left) and Jeff Class . . . both have placed in previous conference wrestling tournaments.

Rare opportunity confronts cagers Saturday

Nebraska's basketball team will have a chance to perform a rare feat when they entertain the Kansas University Jayhawks at the Coliseum Saturday.

Coach Joe Cipriano's Huskers will be going for their first season sweep of Kansas in 24 years. The last time Nebraska pulled a series sweep was during the 1948-49 season.

The Cornhuskers already have defeated Ted Owen's team twice this season. They won 74-72 in the Big Eight pre-season tournament, then gave Cipriano his first win ever in Lawrence with a 59-46 victory at Allen Field House Feb. 10.

Nebraska enters the game after a 76-64 win Monday against Oklahoma State in Stillwater. The win pushed the Huskers Big Eight record to 3-6 and

8-13 for the season.

Kansas dropped its last game 72-66 to league leader Colorado Monday night in Boulder. The loss left the Jayhawks record at 4-5 in league play and 8-13 overall.

Nebraska will be trying to change an odd trend that has been developing in its games at the Coliseum this season.

Nebraska has lost four of five games at home.

The Huskers haven't lost more than that at home in conference play since they dropped six in 1963.

Cipriano expressed concern over Nebraska's Coliseum troubles at his weekly press conference Wednesday at the Nebraska Center.

"We're not sure what the problem at home is this year but Kansas has

suffered the same trouble," he said. "Kansas should have the advantage Saturday, because, like us, they have played much better on the road."

The Husker coach also noted that the Huskers will be faced with a big test in the Saturday encounter.

"We have not put two good games together this season," Cipriano said. "The Kansas game will give us this opportunity after the good effort Monday against Oklahoma State."

The Husker boss will go with the same starting line up that has opened the last four games for Nebraska.

Lee Harris and Steve Erwin will start as forwards with Don Jackson playing center. Tony Riehl will hold down one of the guard spots while Nebraska's leading scorer, Jerry Fort, will play the other backcourt position.

Fort is averaging 14.2 points a game followed by Harris' 13.3 average.

Kansas will start the game with Tommiy Smith and Rick Suttle at forwards and Danny Knight at center. Tom Kivisto and Marshall Rogers will be guards.

Suttle, 6-9, is leading the Jayhawk offense with a 17.8 scoring average.

The game will be the 156th in the series with Kansas holding a 105-50 advantage. Cipriano has a 7-17 record against Kansas, while Ted Owen's record stands at 15-7 against Nebraska in his nine years at Kansas.

Nebraska's junior varsity team will meet Platte College following the varsity contest. Platte finished second in the Nebraska Junior College Conference with a 9-3 record.

The varsity game will be regionally televised with tipoff set for 2:15 p.m.

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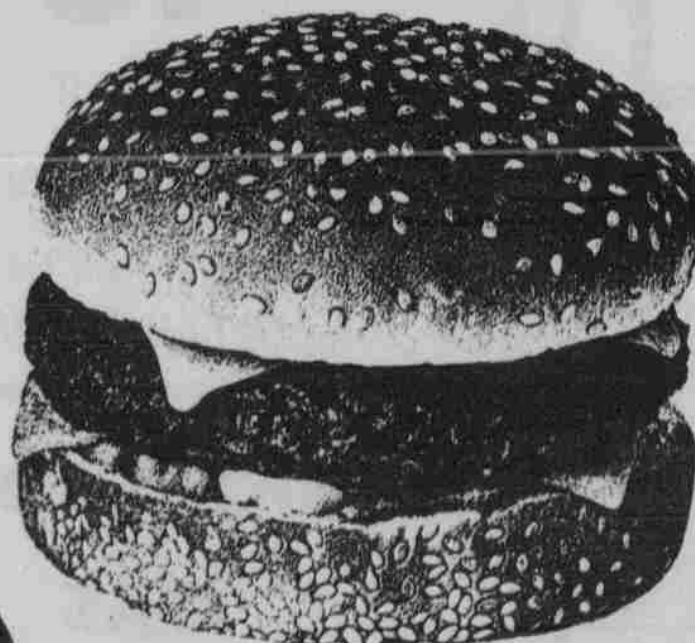
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